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Appl. No. 10/800,438  
Amdt. dated December 29, 2006  
Reply to Office action of October 4, 2006

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 18 remain in this application. Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 have been canceled. Claims 10-12, 14, 19, and 20 have been withdrawn.

Claims 10-12, 14, 19, and 20 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement.

In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 10-12, 14, 19, and 20 in a divisional application.

Claim 1, as amended, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection because it has been amended to include the invention having an electrical isolation slit having opposing ends, wherein the middle of the body defines a slit therein to comprise the electrical isolation slit, and a plurality of electrical isolation perforations having opposing ends, wherein the electrical isolation perforations extend from the opposing ends of the electrical isolation slit to the outer edge of the body, and wherein the electrical isolation perforations and the electrical isolation slit combine to bisect the body. Support for the amendment to specify that the electrical isolation slit has opposing ends, wherein the middle of the body defines a slit therein to comprise the electrical isolation slit, and a plurality of electrical isolation perforations has opposing ends, wherein the electrical isolation perforations extend from the opposing ends of the electrical isolation slit to the outer edge of the body, and wherein the electrical isolation perforations and the electrical isolation slit combine to bisect the body is found in the Specification at p. 7, lines 20-22, and in Fig. 4. The cited and relied upon Minogue (6,134,480) does not disclose an isolation perforation or slit. Although the cited and relied upon Schaefer (5,255,677) teaches electrodes having isolation perforations or slits, Schaefer does not teach a slit that terminates in perforations. Instead, Schaefer teaches a slit that terminates in attachment points 60 (column 5, lines 6-10, and Figures 11 and 13). In contrast, the current invention employs both isolation perforations and a slit to maximize the electrical

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isolation of the electrodes. The dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, and 13 add additional novel features to the independent claims recited above and thus are submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

Claim 15, as amended, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection because it has been amended to include the invention having an electrical isolation slit having opposing ends, wherein the middle of the body defines a slit therein to comprise the electrical isolation slit, and a plurality of electrical isolation perforations having opposing ends, wherein the electrical isolation perforations extend from the opposing ends of the electrical isolation slit to the outer edge of the body, and wherein the electrical isolation perforations and the electrical isolation slit combine to bisect the body. Support for the amendment to specify that the electrical isolation slit has opposing ends, wherein the middle of the body defines a slit therein to comprise the electrical isolation slit, and a plurality of electrical isolation perforations has opposing ends, wherein the electrical isolation perforations extend from the opposing ends of the electrical isolation slit to the outer edge of the body, and wherein the electrical isolation perforations and the electrical isolation slit combine to bisect the body is found in the Specification at p. 7, lines 20-22, and in Fig. 4. The cited and relied upon Minogue (6,134,480) does not disclose an isolation perforation or slit. Although the cited and relied upon Schaefer (5,255,677) teaches electrodes having isolation perforations or slits, Schaefer does not teach a slit that terminates in perforations. Instead, Schaefer teaches a slit that terminates in attachment points 60 (column 5, lines 6-10, and Figures 11 and 13). In contrast, the current invention employs both isolation perforations and a slit to maximize the electrical isolation of the electrodes. The dependent claim 18 adds additional novel features to the independent claims recited above and thus is submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that:

Claims 1-20, as amended, recite distinctions that are of patentable merit under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the independent claims and thus for each

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dependent claim as well. Specifically, an electrical isolation slit having opposing ends, wherein the middle of the body defines a slit therein to comprise the electrical isolation slit, and a plurality of electrical isolation perforations having opposing ends, wherein the electrical isolation perforations extend from the opposing ends of the electrical isolation slit to the outer edge of the body, and wherein the electrical isolation perforations and the electrical isolation slit combine to bisect the body was unsuggested among the prior art references.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 29, 2006

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Anthony Edw. J Campbell



*Friday, December 29, 2006*